

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 17, as follows:

The ECU 305 may combine the outputs of the face detection module 302, driver detection module 303 and/or ignition key detection module 307 to determine whether a person has been left behind in the vehicle by the driver. For instance, if a face is detected inside the vehicle while there is no driver and there is no ignition key, an alarm system 306 may be activated. The alarm system may notify the driver that a person has been left inside the vehicle. A small delay time in the system may be introduced in the event that the driver is letting the person out of the vehicle, or removing a baby from the vehicle. Another condition that can be detected is whether all the windows are closed while there is a person in the vehicle, and there is no driver and no ignition key. In addition to sending a notification alarm to the driver, the inventive system may perform other forms of remedial action. For example, in hot weather, the ECU may cause the vehicle windows to be activated by at least partially rolling one or more windows down to reduce heating inside the vehicle. This will avoid heat injury to the person inadvertently left behind in the vehicle. Similarly, in cold weather, the ECU may cause the heater to be turned on to reduce the effects of cold temperatures upon the person left inside the vehicle. Other combinations of conditions can be similarly derived by the ECU. The essential aspect of this embodiment of the invention is the ability to identify the presence of a person inside the vehicle through the use of face detection techniques.